

CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY  
INFORMATION REPORT

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COUNTRY

Bulgaria

SUBJECT

Composition and Location of First and Second  
Frontier Guard Regiments

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1. The First Frontier Otryad (Frontier Guard Regiment) in Belogradchik is located in barracks which are north of Belogradchik. Maj Geny Bynley is the commander of the Otryad. Okoliya /sic/.

Captain Kiril Boychinov is the political commander of the unit.

This unit consists of 2,300 troops. The unit includes 12 companies, four of which are infantry companies, two are heavy machine gun companies, two are anti-tank companies, one is mortar, one is communications, and one is a supply company. The infantry companies include about 300-350 troops. The heavy machine gun company has from 320 - 330 troops while the other companies have less than 300 troops. The supply company has between 80 and 100 troops.

2. Company commanders - Lt Konstantin Yankov is the CO of the mortar company.

Lt Ivan Peychev is commanding officer of the second infantry company.

Lt Kiril Boychinov is company commander of the communications company. Lt Geny Yanev is the commanding officer of the supply company. He is about 45, a communist, and treats the troops well. The second machine gun company commander is Lt Boris Bozhurov.

The Sergeant Major of the company is Ivan Ivanov.

The commander of the first platoon

Jr Lt Georgi Yankov. The sergeant of this platoon is Ferdinand Slavov.

The commander of the second platoon is Jr Lt Georgi Petrov.

The commander of the third platoon is Jr Lt Simion Petrov.

The commander of the fourth platoon is Jr Lt Kiril Lazakov.

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3. The infantry platoons are equipped with three light machine guns of the Dikter'ov Soviet model and 70 rifles of the Vintovka Soviet model. The platoons have also training grenades and the leaders of the platoons have Soviet TT 8.9 mm pistols, which hold nine cartridges. The heavy machine gun platoons are equipped with three Maksim Sokolov machine guns, two - three light machine guns of the type MG 34, four submachine guns (British), 20 - 30 Vintovka rifles, three pistols for snipers. These pistols are the same type as described above. The submachine guns could be either Soviet or German. The communications platoons are equipped with Vintovka rifles, telephone apparatus, which are of Bulgarian or Soviet make. The antitank platoons are equipped with the new Soviet antitank guns, which were introduced during 1951. The mortar platoons have two Soviet mortars.
4. The Second Frontier Otryad is located in Kula. The commanding officer of this otryad is Major [fnu] Ratkov. The assistant commander or the political commander is Captain [fnu] Dovthinov.
5. Pier fortifications. There is barbed wire along the frontier in the area of the First and Second Frontier Otryads, with the exception of inaccessible places. There is no barbed wire at inaccessible places. The level places near the frontier are plowed, while in wooded areas the trees have been cut down and the area cleared. Such cleared areas are tenths [sic] of meters wide. Thus frontier troops and their leaders can freely observe the border.
6. Several bunkers are dug in front of frontier posts. They are built from lumber and covered with lumber; above the lumber or trees there are six layers of earth. From the post one can go directly into the bunkers so that in case of emergency battle positions can be taken quickly and undercover. Each bunker has an opening for firing with a light machine gun or rifle. Each post has at least three or four such bunkers. The bunkers are connected by means of trenches. Similar trenches are dug around the post.
7. Recently along the border special galleries were dug. These galleries are dug by labor troops and by the local population. They are built of concrete and are very strong. During 1952 and 1953 over 1,800 trudovaks were working in the border area at the village of Gradets, Vidin Okoliya. These trudovaks built many concrete bunkers and galleries.
8. Roads which lead to the border have tank obstacles. These obstacles are left near the road, above the road usually near curves, and are made of large reinforced concrete blocks.
9. Near the frontier there are special trudovak units which see to it that trenches, galleries, and bunkers, are kept clean and in good working condition. These trudovaks take care of the hiding places of secret posts which serve for ambushes and for hiding military and civilian persons.
10. Soldiers who enter military service have the right to 20 days leave, after which they spend time in the barracks and 22 months at the frontier. Leave is granted by the commander of the otryad, upon the suggestion of the commander of the komandatura.
11. Very rarely troops are changed from one border sector to another, however changes on posts are frequent. This is to prevent Bulgarian soldiers from knowing Yugoslav soldiers. Such friendship might lead to desertions on the part of the Bulgarians. When a Bulgarian frontier soldier escapes abroad the entire personnel in his post is changed. All soldiers who have been friendly with the deserter or who are relatives of the deserter are transferred to other komandaturas. Transfers of frontier troops may also be the result of punishment.

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12. The border is frequently inspected. Inspections are mostly made within a given sector of a komandatura and are performed by the commanding officer of the komandatura. These commanders also inspect the posts regularly. Inspections are also made by the frontier troops staffs, by special high officers, and by Soviet officers.
13. State security sections are assigned each komandatura. These sections consist of one or two officers. These officers make constant inspections along the border and in the posts.
14. Up to 1952 the food of frontier troops was very poor and insufficient. This is also the case in other branches of the army, however the air force is more privileged. After 1952 and 1953 the food improved greatly. Each soldier received about 800 grams of good quality bread. Meat was given three times a week. In the morning tea was served with marmalade and cheese etc.
15. The clothing of the troops has improved. Each soldier has a dress uniform, one uniform for service, and one reserve uniform. A year ago / 1952 / troops were told to bring their underwear from home, while now the state supplies this underwear. Each frontier soldier has two pairs of shoes, and two pairs of frontier footwear (tsurvul).
16. Supplies are given out by the commander of the post. This applies also to weapons with which the soldier goes to his post. After a soldier returns from his post, he turns his weapons in to supply. Troops are only left with those weapons which are absolutely necessary in case of an emergency. The supply room is easily accessible so that weapons can be quickly taken from there. Frontier dogs which are well-trained are assigned to every post, komandatura, and otryad.
17. A post is armed with a heavy machine gun of the Maksim Sokolov type, five Dikter'ov light machine guns, 22 Soviet submachine guns, 18 Vintovka rifles, two special sniper rifles with mounted telescope sights (these rifles have an accuracy of up to one km), several attack and defense hand grenades, 22 carbines, and reserve pistols.
18. Each post has a direct connection by telephone with a neighboring post as well as with the komandatura. There are also mobile / walkie-talkie / telephones, with which the ambush posts are supplied for the purpose of communicating at night and in the daytime with the post itself.
19. The second frontier komandatura from the village of Golemanovo, Kula Okoliya, was transferred to the village of Boynitsa, Kula Okoliya. This komandatura includes the following posts: the first frontier post is in Berilovets, sig / Kula Okoliya; the second is in Shishanitsi, / sig / Kula Okoliya; the third is in Golemanovo, Kula Okoliya; the fourth is in Izzor Makhala / sig / Kula Okoliya; the fifth post is in \_\_\_\_\_; the sixth post is in Rakovitsa, Kula Okoliya and is known as Podelenie (unit) "veznen". Each of these posts includes from 38 to 45 troops. The first frontier komandatura is located in Bryagovo, Zidin Okoliya / sig /. The komandatura is housed in the center of the village in a private home. The troops in this sector of the frontier are frequently exchanged. Many of them are transferred as the result of punishment. The komandatura includes the following five posts: the first in Baleyne / sig / the second post called Sokol is located in Bryagovo, west of the village of Bryagovo, the third is located in Kosovo, and known as Podelenie Yastreb (it is located 50 m above Kosovo), the fourth post is in Beleyne, / sig /, this post is known as Tigur and is located about 1.5 km above Beleyne, the fifth post known as Fortuna is in Kabrovo, located west of the village about 500 m away from the frontier. The commander of this / last / post is Lt Subcho Suber from the Rhtman villages. The commanding officer of the komandatura in Bryagovo, Zidin Okoliya is Captain Petkov [REDACTED]

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[redacted] He frequently walks along the border on inspection tours to find hiding diversionaries or illegal entrants. Senior Lt Arna Ukov [redacted] is the political commissar of the komandatura. Lt Todorov is in charge of the state security in the komandatura. [redacted]

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[redacted] Lt /fn/ Kadakov, Todorov's Deputy, is in charge of intelligence; he is an officer from the military school called Vasil Levski in Sofia. [redacted]

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The Master Sergeant of the komandatura is Boris Yordanov. [redacted]

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[redacted] The komandatura is armed with five to seven light Dikter'ov machine guns of Soviet make, three Maksim Sokolov heavy machine guns, three Soviet-made mortars, one anti-aircraft Soviet machine gun, which is mounted on a cart, Vintovka rifles, carbines, Soviet drum submachine guns, pistols, various colored rockets for signal purposes, and several cases of attack and defense hand grenades.

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